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WATER RIGHTS
SALT LAKE

519 Northmont Way
Salt Lake City, UT 84103
January 13, 1992

Robert L. Morgan
DNR Division of Water Rights
1636 W. North Temple, Suite 220
Salt Lake City, UT 84116-3156

Dear Mr. Morgan:

I am responding to your request for input to the final plan for the distribution of water rights within the Utah Lake Drainage Basin. My comments are made on behalf of the Utah Audubon Society.

We are concerned with the lack of information in the plan on the effect that the varying lake levels would have on the shoreline. The horizontal as well as the vertical dimensions of the Lake need to be considered. The consequences of a changing shoreline are too important to be ignored in a comprehensive water management plan.

Obviously these consequences relate to matters of land ownership, taxation, recreation, and more.

Our particular concern is that valuable habitat for waterfowl and shorebirds might possibly be destroyed by some unknown, small change in the lake level, and most certainly will be destroyed by the maximum change specified in the plan, 9.2 feet.

Provo Bay, Benjamin Slough, Powell Slough State Waterfowl Management Area, and Goshen Bay are all significant enough to wildlife to have been considered as national refuges. Provo Bay is a particularly important location for birds migrating through our desert region on the Pacific and Central Flyways. Disturbance of their staging and nesting areas threatens their existence and thus our quality of life on this small planet.

I hope you will study these matters as you draw up your plan, which we understand is necessary to meet the human growth needs of the area. Thank you for the opportunity to make this statement.

Yours truly,

Carol Withrow
Carol Withrow
Utah Audubon Society

*P.S. We would appreciate
a specific response to our
concerns, if that is
possible. Thanks - C.W.*